

PU020133
Customer No. 24498

Serial No.: 10/511,641
Art Unit: 2617

Remarks/Arguments

The Examiner is requested to reconsider his requirement for an Abstract. An Abstract, on a separate sheet, was submitted in the Preliminary Amendment dated 18 October 2004, which the USPTO has acknowledged receiving. The Abstract is set forth on page 6 of the Preliminary Amendment.

The Examiner has noted that this application currently names joint inventors. The Examiner's presumption is correct that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time inventions covered therein were made. The owner of the subject matter of the claimed invention is:

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France.

Claims 1 to 6, 8 to 13, and 15 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over US publication 2002/0147008 to Kallio in view of US Patent No. 6,256,498 to Ludwig.

The Examiner has pointed to paragraph 28 of Kallio as showing a WLAN that appears as another GSM to the selected GSM. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his analysis. Nowhere does paragraph 28 of Kallio teach or suggest:

"an interworking function, coupled between the access point and a selected Public Land Mobile Network, via an inter-PLMN backbone, the interworking function enabling communications between the selected PLMN and the WLAN, wherein the WLAN appears as another PLMN to the selected PLMN",

as specifically recited in Claim 1. Rather, paragraph 28 of Kallio recites only a wireless mobile center 210, a mobile transaction server 220, and a hotspot LAN 230, that are connected to the GSM network 100, via an A-interface gate 310 and an Intranet Location

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Register 320 under the control of the network management system 300. Nowhere does Kallio teach or suggest that;

"the WLAN appears as another PLMN to the selected PLMN",

as specifically recited in Claim 1. Rather, in Kallio, the GSM is connected to the WLAN, and therefore does not appear as another GSM. Furthermore, nowhere does Kallio show or suggest an interworking function. The Applicants therefore submit that the patentability of Claim 1 is not affected by Kallio.

The Examiner has asserted that Kallio fails to teach public land mobile network and an inter-PLMN backbone. The Examiner asserts that these features are disclosed in Ludwig, and that therefore a person of ordinary skill in the art would incorporate the teachings of Ludwig into the invention of Kallio.

Even if the structure of Ludwig were to be included in the structure of Kallio, the instant invention as defined by Claim 1 would not be obtained. Neither reference teaches or suggests that:

"the WLAN appears as another PLMN to the selected PLMN",

as specifically recited in Claim 1. It is therefore clear that the patentability of Claim 1 is not affected by Kallio and Ludwig, even if taken together.

Claims 2 to 7 are dependent from Claim 1 and add further advantageous features. The Applicants submit that these subclaims are patentable as their parent Claim 1.

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kallio in view of Ludwig. The Examiner has asserted that Kallio discloses communications from the WLAN to the selected GSM network appear to be from another GSM network, and communications from the selected GSM network to the WLAN appear to be from within the WLAN, citing paragraphs 30 and 35 of Kallio. The Applicants can not agree.

Paragraphs 30 and 35 of Kallio relate to call handover between a GSM network and a wireless LAN. Nowhere does Kallio show or suggest:

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“providing an interworking function, which communications with the interface to convert protocols between the WLAN and the selected PLMN wherein communications from the WLAN to the selected PLMN appear to be from another PLMN and communications from the selected PLMN to the WLAN appear to be from within the WLAN”,

as specifically recited in Claim 8. It is therefore clear that Kallio does not affect the patentability of Claim 8.

The Examiner has indicated that Kallio fails to disclose a Public Land Mobile Network and inter PLMN interface. The Examiner asserts that these features are to be found in Ludwig. The Applicants point out that even if the cited features of Ludwig were to be incorporated into the apparatus of Kallio, the instant invention would not be obtained, since Ludwig also fails to show or suggest:

“providing an interworking function, which communicates with the interface to convert protocols between the WLAN and the selected PLMN wherein communications from the WLAN to the selected PLMN appear to be from another PLMN, and communications from the selected PLMN to the WLAN appear to be from within the WLAN”,

as specifically set forth in Claim 8. It is therefore clear that even if the structure of Ludwig were to be combined with the structure of Kallio, the patentability of Claim 8 would not be affected.

Claims 9 to 12 are dependent from Claim 8 and add further advantageous features. The Applicants submit that the subclaims are patentable as their parent Claim 8.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 13 under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kallio in view of Ludwig. Nowhere does Kallio show or suggest:

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"transmitting the routing area update request to a SGSN of a selected PLMN, via an inter-PLMN backbone using the Gp interface, wherein the WLAN appears as a logical PLMN to the selected PLMN",

as specifically recited in Claim 13. Furthermore, Kallio uses an A interface, not a Gp interface, as claimed.

The Examiner has pointed to the table on page 5 of Kallio and paragraph 44. Neither of these portions of Kallio teach or suggest a method where:

"the WLAN appears as logical PLMN to the selected PLMN"

as specifically recited in Claim 13.

The Examiner has pointed to column 5, lines 57 to 60, and column 6, lines 23 to 29, of Ludwig. However, nowhere do the cited portions of Ludwig teach or suggest:

"transmitting the routing area update request to a SGSN of a selected PLMN, via an inter-PLMN backbone using the Gp interface, wherein the WLAN appears as a logical PLMN to the selected PLMN",

as specifically recited in Claim 13. It is therefore clear that even if the disclosure of Ludwig were to be combined with the subject matter of Kallio, the patentability of Claim 13 would not be affected.

Claims 14 and 15 are dependent from Claim 13 and add further advantageous features. The Applicants submit that these subclaims are patentable as their parent Claim 13.

The Examiner has additionally cited US Patent No. 6,212,390, to Rune, against Claims 7 and 14. The Examiner has stated that Rune discloses wherein the selected PLMN comprises a universal mobile telecommunication system network. However, even if the disclosure of Rune were to be combined with the disclosures of Ludwig and Kallio, the patentability of the invention defined by Claim 13 would not be affected, since nowhere does Rune show or suggest:

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“transmitting the routing area update request to a SGSN of a selected PLMN, via an inter-PLMN backbone using the Gp interface, wherein the WLAN appears as a logical PLMN to the selected PLMN”,

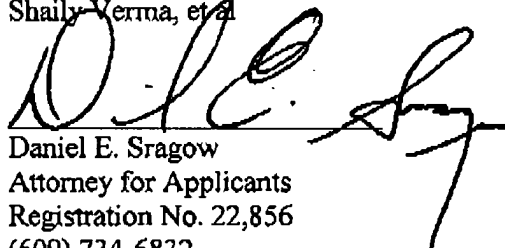
as specifically recited in Claim 13. It is therefore clear that Claims 14 and 15, which depend from Claim 13, are patentable as their parent Claim 13.

Similar arguments apply to Claim 7.

The Applicants believe that the instant application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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